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WASHINGTON--SENATE LEADERS MADE AN ELEVENTH HOUR EFFORT TODAY TO AVERT A POSSIBLY ACRIMONIOUS FLOOR FIGHT OVER A MOVE BY THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO GAIN A ROLE IN CIA-WATCHING.

SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER MANSFIELD PLANNED TO MEET WITH SEN. J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, D-ARK., CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXISTING WATCHDOG GROUP, SEN. RICHARD B. RUSSELL, D-GA., BEFORE THE SENATE CONVENED.

FULBRIGHT SAID LAST WEEK HE WOULD FORMALLY FILE TODAY A REPORT ON A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE TO EXPAND THE SENATE'S SUBCOMMITTEE FOR OVERSEEING OPERATIONS OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. PRESENT OVERSEERS ARE AGAINST SHARING THE RESPONSIBILITY.

ALTHOUGH PREVIOUS MEETINGS BETWEEN FULBRIGHT AND RUSSELL FAILED TO BRING OFF ANY COMPROMISE, MANSFIELD STILL HOPED TO BE ABLE TO WORK OUT SOMETHING TO AVOID A BATTLE ON THE FLOOR, WHERE OPPONENTS OF THE RESOLUTION APPEARED TO HAVE THE UPPER HAND.

6/1--TD101BAED